

863.

v.au/nla.news-page14

MERCANTILE AND MONEY ARTICLE.

1½ Amount of Customs duties paid to follows:—		
Ginseng	...	\$1 8
Opium, cordials, or strong waters	...	5
Run	...	10
Wine	...	10
Ale, porter, and beer (in wood)	...	10
Do (in bottle)	...	10
Tobacco and snuff	...	2
Coffee and chicory	...	2
Sugar, unrefined	...	2
Boiling warehouse duty	...	2
Distillate	...	2
Plutago	...	2
Total	...	\$30 00

A comparative statement of the Co

Revenue of the colony of New South Wales, and of the special funds paid into them at Sydney during the quarters ended 31st March, 1862, and 31st March, 1863, respectively, showing the increase or decrease on each head thereof, is published in the *Gazette*.

From this statement we find that the revenue, including special receipts, for the quarter ended the 31st of March, 1863, amounted to £348,134 4s. 4d.; for the corresponding quarter of 1862 the revenue was £336,314 10s. 4d.;—there is therefore a decrease of £21,225 1s., or about 6 per cent.

The heads of revenue which show a decrease are:—Duty on Spirits distilled in the colony; Mint Receipts, Land Revenue, Fees on Licenses, and the Special Funds. The heads which show an increase are:—Rent—exclusive of land, Mines, and the Special Funds.

The Customs revenue for the quarter 31st March, 1863, was £216,563 13s. 11½d. 30s. 6d. Increase, £299,000 or about 4 per cent. There is an increase in all the dutiable articles, except tobacco, beer, and coffee and chicory. The spirits distilled in the colony continue a falling off, and there is a decrease of 10s. or 32 per cent. on the quarter.

Under the head of Gold the revenue for the quarter shows a falling off of £3510 20 per cent., and the Mint receipts of £2874 11s. 8d., or 50 per cent. The Land Revenue is considerably increased, the amount received in the first quarter of 1863 being £608 against £39,023 4s. 3d. in 1862; £28,101 11s. 3d., or 46 per cent.

From the Postage Receipts there is an increase, hardly worth noticing, of 1 per cent. but from Licenses the revenue has increased of £327, or 5 per cent.

The amount received for Fees during the quarter is less by £280 than in 1862; but Fines and Forfeitures amount received in 1862 by £339.

Under the head of Rents, exclu-

After the arrival of the mail, on the 20th inst., the following was received from Mr. A. J. Coffin, of the inner harbor, in a letter, which was forwarded to the Board of the Harbor Dues, in a letter of the 21st inst. The letter was as follows:—

“The amount received from Pilot and Harbour Dues shows an increase of 14s. 11d., and from the Tonnage Dues, there is also an increase of 4s. 14d. 11s. The amount received for Ammunition is in excess of the past quarter by £1298 12s. 6d., and the rates and Act amount for the past quarter against nil for 1862.”

The revenue derived from Post Office Orders for the past quarter was £18,000. Under the head of Miscellaneous Receipts there is a decrease of £2148, and Receipts of £915.

On looking at the revenue of the whole it will be seen that there is a great falling off in the revenue derived from Land and the other hand it is a matter of course that there is a steady increase in the revenue derived from the Tramways and Railways and Electric Telegraph which are also important items of revenue.

Mr. Brewster sold to-day, by a Ballenbiller and Moogoonoola station Warrego district, together with three head of cattle, at two pounds ten shillings per head; also, the Ruined Castle Creek

Queensland, without stock or implements for one hundred and twenty pounds cash.

Messrs. W. Dean and Co. held a weekly produce sale (postponed on the Easter holidays), with the following results:—28 bales wool were offered and principal lots being, AD, 11 bales at 23s; and H. Bro., 14 bales fleece—small lot of sheepskins brought 77d. Tallow was catalogued, and all read casks brought 39s. 6d., 3 casks of No 1 beef, 39s., and one of mutton. 242 hides were also disposed of at 14s., the latter price being for 150 hides.

Messrs. Stokes, Craig, and Co. held an extensive sale of teas, sugars, and

shots, &c. there was a good attendance, and the following was the result:—About 50 tons of current clayed sugar at £36 to £36 10s. per ton; 400 chests of Confucius, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. per lb.; teas ex Berengaria, and other articles at full rates.

A special general meeting of the members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society was held to-day, at three o'clock, Mr. C. G. H. Smith in the chair. The alteration in the sixth clause with regard to the eligibility of a director, agreed to at the last annual meeting, was confirmed. The motion of Mr. W. G. H. Smith, for increasing the remuneration of the directors, and an amendment by Mr. G. H. Smith, that the number of directors be increased from twelve, were, after some discussion, carried.

[illegible]

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SALES BY AUCTION.

FRIDAY, 10th April.

46 Bales Wool.

Shewell's.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH will sell by public auction, at their Produce Store, Circular Quay, on FRIDAY, the 10th April, at half-past 10 o'clock, 46 bales wool Shewell's.

Terms, cash.

Preliminary Notice.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

141 Packages Seasonable Goods, now landing.

By Naom.

Highly.

Important to the Boot and Shoe Trade, Country Buyers, and Shippers.

Day of Sale, MONDAY, 13th April.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH are favoured with instructions from the importers to sell by auction, at their Commercial Sale Rooms, 143, Pitt-street, on the above date.

TU-MORROW, FRIDAY, 10th April.
SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF SUBURBAN FREEHOLDS, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, at 11 o'clock for half-past 11 o'clock prompt.

REDFERN.—Two Cottages in George-street, opposite the Municipal Chambers; also two Cottages and an Allotment at the rear, known as the property of Mrs. Wilks.

BALMAIN.—Block of Land fronting Darling-street, adjoining the National School, and opposite the Congregational Church.

KINGSTON, NEWTOWN.—A first-class House and three Cottages, at the corner of Albion and Denison streets.

MESSINGDEN ROAD.—Two Capital Dwelling-houses, opposite the University Gardens, known as Mr. Howe's property.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH.
DENISON-TERRACE, KINGSTON, NEWTOWN.

A SUPERIOR and WELL-FINISHED RESIDENCE and THREE COTTAGES adjoining, at the corner of Denison and Albion streets, Kingston.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH have received instructions from Mr. TWICHTT to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, on FRIDAY, 10th April, at 11 o'clock.

All that parcel of land, containing 40 ACRES, situated at Lane Cove, parish of Willoughby, commencing at the south-east corner of Ball's 100 acres, bounded on the south by a line 18 chains 80 links to Nichols' 280 acres, on east by that farm, being a line 25 chains, to Nichols' 200 acres, called "King's Plains," 42 links, on the north by a line 23 chains to Ball's 280 acres, and on the west by that farm 25 chains; being the land originally promised to John Stubbs, deceased.

Plan on view at the Rooms.

ALEXANDER MOORE and Co. will sell by auction, at the Mart, Labour Bazaar, Pitt-street, on FRIDAY, 10th April, at 11 o'clock.

Gold and silver jewelry and other watches, Rings, brooches, and other articles.

Most important to Grocers, Speculators, Shippers, and Country Buyers.

Great Unreserved Auction Sale.
The Balance of the Cargoes of Mauritius Sugars, Ex Eugene and Ville de Nantes.

Day of Sale, MONDAY, 13th April.

MESSRS. W. DEAN and Co. have been favoured with instructions from Messrs. Scott, Henderson, and Co. to sell by auction, at their Warehouse, Pitt and O'Connell streets, on MONDAY, 13th April, at 11 o'clock.

The balance of the cargo of choice Mauritius sugars ex Eugene and Ville de Nantes.

As follows:—
173 bags No. 3—Queen Victoria
33 ditto " "—New Grove
34 ditto " "—Barrington
57 ditto " "—Dunrobin
173 ditto " "—Le Gode
60 ditto " "—Chival
50 ditto " "—Magna

Ex Eugene and Ville de Nantes,
A—Ditto 8K
B—Ditto 8K
C—Ditto 8K
D—Ditto 8K
E—Ditto 8K
F—Ditto 8K
G—Ditto 8K
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I—Ditto 8K
J—Ditto 8K
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V—Ditto 8K
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Z—Ditto 8K

As the instructions received are positively to dispose of the whole on the above date, the sale affords a very favourable opportunity for securing a really choice site for business purposes or for a private residence.

Plan on view at the Rooms.

Terms, liberal.

DARLING POINT.

The whole of that truly valuable and attractive estate known as the property of His Honor Mr. JUSTICE CHERRIE, containing an area of about FIVE ACRES, situated at Darling Point, between "GREENOAKS," the residence of T. S. MORT, Esq., and "GLANWORTH," the residence of R. COVART, Esq., and comprising the following:—

LOT 1.—The residence and grounds of the proprietor, fronting a private road leading to the entrance of "GREENOAKS," and extending to the grounds of "GLANWORTH."

LOT 2.—THE VILLA and GROUNDS known as the "OCTAGON," formerly the residence of JOHN DE LAMB, Esq., being a choice selection from the celebrated Glenloch Estate.

LOTS 3 and 4.—TWO BEAUTIFUL SITES, containing about AN ACRE EACH, fronting the main Darling Point Road, and known as ST. MARK'S PARSONAGE and "GLANWORTH."

RICHARDSON and WRENCH have received instructions to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, on MONDAY, 13th April, at 11 o'clock.

The following valuable suburban properties, situated at DARLING POINT:

LOT 1.—A VILLA RESIDENCE, built of brick and stone, containing large drawing-room, dining-room, breakfast parlour, 4 bedrooms, bath-room, and kitchen, with spacious cellar in basement. THE OUTBUILDINGS consist of ranges of stabling and horse boxes, coach-house, with loft, scullery, groom's room, &c. &c.

THE GROUNDS contain an area of 1 acre 10 rods 14 inches, having 108 feet frontage to a private road leading to the entrance of "GREENOAKS." The trees on the grounds attached to "GLANWORTH." They are laid out in shrubbery, flower garden, lawn, &c.

LOT 2.—A VILLA SITE, containing 3 acres 2 rods 14 inches, with a large house, 3 bedrooms, kitchen, pantry, &c.; yard at the rear, with laundry, water tank, &c.

THE GROUNDS, containing 1 acre 2 rods and 33 poles, have a fine carriage entrance, one chain wide, immediately at the entrance of "GREENOAKS," and comprises a lovely sloping lawn, garden, shrubbery, &c.

LOT 3.—A VILLA SITE, containing 3 rods 3 poles, with 141 feet frontage to the Darling Point Road, adjoining "GLANWORTH," the estate of R. COVART, Esq.

LOT 4.—A VILLA SITE, 2 rods 33 poles, with 141 feet frontage to the Darling Point Road, adjoining ST. MARK'S PARSONAGE.

It would be impossible to do sufficient justice to its description of this valuable estate within the limits of an advertisement.

It is extremely necessary to state that the NATURAL LOVELINESS OF THE LOCALITY is unimpaired, and has in the PECULIAR CHARM OF ITS BEAUTY NO PARALLEL ELSEWHERE.

The position is rich in SUPERB SCENERY and MAGNIFICENT PANORAMIC VIEWS, an additional charm being obtained by the HIGHLY-IMPROVED GROUNDS of the neighboring properties.

The estate will be sold in one lot, or as subdivided, and is in the market for BONA FIDE SALE in consequence of the proprietor being about leaving the colony.

FAVOURABLE OPPORTUNITY for securing what on any so seldom to be obtained—FIRST-CLASS PROPERTY on the famed DARLING POINT.

Certs to view can be obtained on application to RICHARDSON and WRENCH.

A large plan of the subdivision on view at the Rooms.

GROSS-STREET, CAMPERDOWN.

TWO RECENTLY-ERECTED HOUSES and large Block of Land, near the Mossington Road, opposite St. John's College.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH have received instructions from Mr. T. Jones to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, on MONDAY, 13th April, at 11 o'clock.

All that freehold block of land, having a frontage of 30 feet with a depth of 99 feet, on which are erected two well-finished RESIDENCES, TWO HALLS, WELL-FINISHED KITCHENS, and a side wall of brick, containing each 4 good apartments and verandah, with yard, well of water, &c., at the rear.

ALSO an enclosed VACANT ALLOTMENT OF LAND adjoining, having 30 feet frontage to Gross-street, with a depth of 99 feet.

The above is a superior highly-finished little property in thorough order and repair. The outside is painted and pointed in imitation of stone, and has an attractive pretty appearance.

Mr. Burton, one of the tenants, will allow intending purchasers to inspect.

Plan on view at the Rooms.

ST. LEONARD'S, NORTH SHORE.
Cottage and Land adjoining the Crow's Nest Estate, the residence of Alexander Berry, Esq.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH have received instructions to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, on MONDAY, 13th April, at 11 o'clock.

All that parcel of land, containing 1 acre 1 rod and 33 poles, situated at the North Shore, and bounded on the north by a line bearing S. 40° E. 4 chains, commencing at the north-west corner of Alexander Berry's 60 acres; on the east by a line south 4 chains 42 links; on the south by a line 25 chains 42 links, being the boundary of the Crow's Nest estate; and 8 chains 52 links from the boundary line, upon which is erected a neat, well-finished cottage, containing four rooms, with stable, fore-louge, two wells of water, &c., at the rear, known as Mr. Connor's property.

The land is all cleared and fenced, and planted with a choice assortment of fruit-trees, &c.

Plan on view at the Rooms.

VALUABLE FARM OF 40 ACRES, adjoining Ball's 100 Acre Grant and Nichols' Grants.

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THE GROUNDS contain an area of 1 acre 10 rods 14 inches, having 108 feet frontage to a private road leading to the entrance of "GREENOAKS." The trees on the grounds attached to "GLANWORTH." They are laid out in shrubbery, flower garden, lawn, &c.

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A large plan of the subdivision on view at the Rooms.

Preliminary Notice.

Most Important to Warehousemen, Drapers, Shippers, and Country Buyers.

269 Packages Choice new Winter Drapery, Blankets, Flannels, Slops, &c., &c.

Just landed ex Whinfield, Zulu, Minerva, and Naom.

Two Days' Sale—WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY, 15th and 17th April.

MESSRS. W. DEAN and Co. have received instructions from the importers to sell by auction, at their Warehouse, Pitt and O'Connell streets, on WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY, 15th and 17th April, each day at 11 o'clock prompt.

269 packages of the above goods. Full particulars will be duly published, and printed catalogues issued.

Terms, liberal, at sale.

THE BRIG "MISSIE,"
181 Tons Register.

For Sale by Auction on FRIDAY, 10th April.

MESSRS. W. DEAN and Co. are instructed to sell by auction, at their Warehouse, Pitt and O'Connell streets, on FRIDAY, 10th April, at half-past 12 o'clock.

The fine brig "MISSIE," she is 181 tons register, of great carrying capacity, had a considerable sum of money expended on her a short time back, and is a vessel of class most profitable for the international trade, in which she has been for some time past so well known as to render any extended remarks unnecessary.

The vessel can be examined by intending purchasers at any time by applying to Captain DOWNES, on board, at Lamb's Wharf.

Inventory in course of preparation.

Books and Shoes.

Just landed ex V. M. and Alma.

For Positive Unreserved Sale.

THIS DAY, April 9th.

To Boot and Shoe Makers, Storekeepers, Buyers for the Interior, and others.

MR. CHARLES TEAKLE has been instructed by the importers, Messrs. M. A. Worme and Co., to sell by auction, at his Rooms, Wynard-street, THIS DAY, April 9th, at 11 o'clock precisely.

112 packages of choice new goods, all suitable for the approaching season, of the best manufacture, comprising an excellent assortment of men's, women's, and children's goods.

Terms, liberal, at sale.

MR. H. D. COCKBURN has been instructed to sell by auction, on SATURDAY, 11th April, at 12 o'clock, on the Premises, M. E. W. Street, Botany Road.

A four-roomed cottage, standing on allotment of 30 feet frontage by 100 feet deep, good well of water, &c.

Terms, cash.

MR. J. F. STAFF will sell by auction, at his Rooms, Church-street, on FRIDAY, 10th April, at 11 o'clock.

Milkers, springers, heifers, and steers, all quiet, and some of the cows just calved.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock.

THIS DAY, Thursday, 9th April.

To Tobaccoists, Grocers, Storekeepers, and others.

Just landed ex Alma.

Five French Clay Pipes.

CHATTO and HUGHES have received instructions from the importers to sell by auction, at their Rooms, THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock.

25 cases, each 40 one gross boxes, fine French clay pipes, assorted patterns.

Terms at sale.

THIS DAY, Thursday, 9th April.

To Ironmongers, Storekeepers, and others.

Now landing ex Kate.

CHATTO and HUGHES have received instructions from the importers to sell by auction, at their Rooms, THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock.

10 hogheads hollowware.

Now landing ex Kate.

Terms at sale.

THIS DAY, Thursday, 9th April.

To Ironmongers and others.

On account of whom it may concern.

CHATTO and HUGHES have received instructions to sell by auction, at their Rooms, THIS DAY, 9th April, at 11 o'clock precisely.

On account of whom it may concern.

Ex Panama.

20-1 case containing 1 dozen Collins' medium Yankee axes.

23-1 ditto ditto 1 ditto ditto.

24-1 ditto ditto 2 ditto ditto.

THIS DAY, Thursday, 9th April.

To Grocers, Storekeepers, and others.

To Tailors.

To Clothiers.

To Woollen Drapers.

To Outfitters.

To Importers of First-class Clothing, &c.

THIS DAY, 9th April.

ROSSITER and LAZARUS have been

favoured with instructions from the importers

to sell by auction, at their Rooms, on the above day,

33 cases and bales of new and seasonable goods, comprising—

American pilot coats

Ditto sealskin coats

Ditto sealcoat suits

Ditto sealcoat suits

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CONVICT SYSTEM IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND.

(From the Edinburgh Review, January.)

(Continued.)

THE Second Penal Servitude Act was brought forward early in the next session. It adopted the main recommendations of the Commons Committee Report; but the Home Secretary did not commit himself freely to the principle of his own measure. He would permit only a shorter remission of punishment, and would then discharge the prisoner unconditionally, except in some peculiar cases. Misled by the sentimental objection that the poor fellow would not get work, the police were looking after them, he would have the police not look after them. We need not point out that this was a surrender of the only safeguard that society can have, and an equalising of the licensed prisoner with the ordinary discharged felon, except in as far as "good conduct" in prison had earned a small remission of punishment. Now "good conduct" in prison is known by all experienced officials to be worth absolutely nothing as a test of reformation. The Irish officials themselves say that a better judgment can be formed of the real state of mind of a convict by a few days' observation when he is at liberty, than by any number of years under any degree of restraint. Moreover, it appears that in our English gaols "good conduct" is so generally the rule that 80 per cent. of the men, and 84 per cent. of the women never commit any offence whatever in gaol. However numerous may be the transgressions reported, they are always the work of a very small number of prisoners—inordinate from weakness of intellect or perverseness of temper.

The clearest view of the changes introduced by the Act of 1857 may be conveyed by an extract from Sir George Grey's Circular to the Judges and magistrates on the bill becoming law.

"The following are the principal alterations in the law made by this Act:—

"1st. It extends the provisions of the Act above mentioned to the 16th and 17th years of her Majesty's reign, so that the sentence of penal servitude for the offence of treason shall be for the term of years specified in the Act, and not for the term of years specified in the Act of 1834.

"2ndly. It extends the term of penal servitude so as to make them correspond in duration with the terms of transportation, and to provide for the case of a convict who may be sentenced to both terms of punishment.

"3rdly. It gives a power to pass sentences of penal servitude of a shorter duration than the former minimum term of transportation, but not less than three years.

"4thly. It attaches to the sentence of penal servitude the liability of the convict to be removed under sentence from this country to a colony, there to be dealt with in all respects as if he had been sentenced to transportation.

"The second and third of these alterations have been made in accordance with the recommendation of a committee of the House of Commons appointed in 1856, to inquire into the provisions and operation of the Act of 1834, and to report thereon to the House of Commons.

"The main desideratum, however, is of a different kind—the Intermediate Prison. Having spoken fully of this institution in connection with Ireland, we will here only refer our readers to the experience and example of the Prisoners' Aid Society, and of such refugees for female convicts as have successfully served the purpose of intermediate prisons.

From details we must here pass (very briefly) to some general principles. It is necessary, in the first place, to admit what is, indeed, nothing but a truism—that the only possible security for society is in the reformation of its criminals. The only question which can be raised here is as to the proportion which may be rendered harmless. Till the greater number are so reformed, the criminal class will remain "dominant." Reformation, and steady application of the law to new and old offenders; but in the absence of such safeguards, and while transportation was still discussed, as a thing which might become feasible again, through some accident or other; and while the public were disputing with the authorities as to whether crime was on the increase or the contrary—a doubtful matter under the increase of summary convictions which took place at that date—the total impression on the minds of the public and on the criminal class was that crime was rapidly on the increase, and that punishment was becoming at once more lenient and more variable.

From that time to this there has been an incessant conflict of opinion between the public, the Directors in England, and the Directors in Ireland, about the working of the Act; but the real subject of controversy is not the Act, but our "convict system," which is something very unlike the law. The enlargement of summary jurisdiction is complained of as introducing large numbers to the evil influences of a gaol for short periods, while magisterial sentences are of such inequality as to make the administration ridiculous; and the tribunal itself is one which the criminal class complain of as unjust. This is almost the only attention which the public gives to any class of offenders but the ticket-of-leave men. When convicts are spoken of, anywhere outside a prison, they are always ticket-of-leave men; and complaints of leniency always refer to the use of the license. It is quite true that there is much to complain of in the administration of the law; but if it was carried out as well in Great Britain as it is in Ireland, there would still be much to consider in regard to the far larger number of culprits who are not under terms of license at all.

At the end of five years from the passage of the Act, we find ourselves all of one mind as to the "failure of our convict system"—all of us except a very few enthusiastic officials, who now, however, admit that there is no great wisdom in enacting a law with clear and stringent safeguards, and then, in practice, dropping out the safeguards altogether. At the back of every ticket-of-leave the conditions of the license are printed; and the holder is warned that he may be brought back to fulfil his term of punishment, not only for a fresh breach of the laws, but for an idle mode of life and disreputable connections. Every man of the class knows very well that these conditions are never attended to. He gets what he can of the "gratuities" he has obtained by the conduct to which he owes his ticket, and then, if he is a shrewd man, burns his ticket. It was galling to him in leaving the prison, to be looked down upon by the fellows who had fulfilled their sentence, and who boasted that they were completely free; and he puts himself on an equality with them as soon as possible. He believes that he is making a fresh start, with a new name in a new place; he is confident that no eyes are upon his mode of life; and that if caught in a fresh offence, he has every chance of passing for a new offender—not only because he has been lost sight of since his release, but because the Secretary of State has thought fit to diminish the allowance for the expenses of witnesses at distant Courts, and it is pretty certain that his old acquaintance among the police will excuse themselves from the trouble and cost of taking a journey to identify him. The passion for economy in managing this department of crime—that economy which we are every day calling "penny wise and pound foolish"—that economy which impairs the management of our female prisons, and wears out and kills off matrons by imposing twice as much labour on them as woman's frame can bear; that economy has taken a bad direction

in inflicting loss on witnesses for the public service of identifying old offenders; and it is one of the evils which we are bound to protest against.

It was discovered, four years since, that some abuses had been perpetrated by witnesses who got a profit out of their attendance at trials of supposed old offenders. Such abuses are of serious consequence, of course, to the man on his trial, to the Court, and to the public peace; but the proposed remedy is working so badly that something must be done. The tariff framed by the Government is now so low as to frustrate justice to a great extent. Poor men will not prosecute; policemen and others who have no spare means discourage prosecutions, and are apt to deny all knowledge of an old acquaintance, or to profess a total loss of memory about events which it would be costly to remember. The police on the spot find all manner of obstruction in investigating a case of offence, because every poor person who could give information dreads being bound over by the magistrates to attend at the trial. On police witnesses the burden is particularly heavy, from the frequency with which their evidence is wanted; and it has lately become known that their friends among the authorities interfere on their behalf, to prevent their being summoned. The Recorder of Birmingham says, in the appendix to a late charge—

"I have been informed by the local authorities of Birmingham that the government of the police in a neighbouring county wrote to them to request them not to require the attendance of their officers, as the poor men really could not afford the loss supposed on them by their juries. It is but reasonable to suppose that the feeling which prompts this extraordinary request is shared by many who have too little franchise, or too much prejudice to avow it."

A vigorous protest of this kind by the Grand Jury of South Lancashire, in August 1860, was understood to have produced a sufficient sensation in the Home Office to induce the Minister to improve the scale of allowances; but it was to be at the expense of the local rates; and thus again a temptation would be offered to screen or ignore offences. The general judgment on the case seems to be that, if it can scarcely be hoped by any method, or any scale of allowance, to secure a perfect correspondence between crime and justice, any error should be on the side of over zeal rather than concealment of transgressions.

Photography supplies a new and valuable method of detection. If we had the necessary complement of the license system, a perfect system of communication between all the magistrates and their police throughout the kingdom, and a registration of offenders, with such a supervision as is the actual but unfulfilled condition of the ticket-of-leave, we should have something like the command over our criminal class which "the system" is assumed to give us. The main desideratum, however, is of a different kind—the Intermediate Prison. Having spoken fully of this institution in connection with Ireland, we will here only refer our readers to the experience and example of the Prisoners' Aid Society, and of such refugees for female convicts as have successfully served the purpose of intermediate prisons.

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commit crime to get into durance, where he could have six or ten ounces of boiled meat and a pound of potatoes for dinner, to be insulted every good man in England. We may trust that it will do no harm to the convicts either. No; our true economy does not lie in the direction of underfeeding men who are already suffering under a change of life as great as their brain can bear. Their treatment is arranged under the advice of physicians; and we trust the aim will continue to be, not to make them eat little, but work much and well.

It is a popular error to suppose that sentimental prisoners' friends are always trying to get sentences shortened. As far as we have been able to observe, the constant importunity of our successful managers has been for a lengthening of sentences, in the great majority of cases. This leads us to consider the crowd of prisoners in our gaols, and aggressors in our streets.

The shortening of sentences wherever possible is one of the chief characteristics of our criminal management of late years; and nothing could be more foolish or mischievous. It is bad economy, though economy is the excuse; and it fills the gaols which was intended to empty. The present panic has wrought in the direction of lengthening the sentences of old offenders, and we may hope that there will be permanent re-arrangement of terms of punishment.

The Criminal Justice Act is a great blessing for the quantity of business it enables us to get through with the lighter order of offenders; but it is a very serious evil that old offenders, men and women who have been convicted three, six, or ten times, should pass the tribunal on the same terms with those who have not transgressed slightly and for the first time. As nineteenth-century sinners who pass through the hands of the police are dealt with summarily, the number of old convicts brought up for slight offences must be considerable; and their sentences are almost always proportioned to the single act, and not affected by their depraved and dangerous character. Any certainty of recognition would be a great security to society, and a heavy blow to the confident members of the criminal class.

Something more than this, however, seems to be considered necessary for duly affecting the imagination of gamblers and burglars. For our part we have a clear persuasion of the necessity of flogging for such cases. We have no sympathy with the vindictive feeling which expresses itself in clamour for bread and water, the cat-o'-nines, and any other infliction that can be devised in our period of so-called civilization. We believe that applications of punishment must vary with the capacity and habits of the offender. There can be no doubt that the most experienced managers of reformatory methods are right when they say that the deterring power of punishment is very limited; and that when the limit is passed, further infliction only increases crime. It is on this ground that the present cry for vindictive and cumulative punishment is highly dangerous. But it is also unquestionable that the most deterrent punishment compatible with humanity is the most humane, because the most effectual. Flogging is sincerely and undisguisedly dreaded by the most hardened, impudent, and brutal criminals. They can feel the disgrace of it after they are lost to every other touch of shame; and the pain of it is within the capacity of their imagination, when the sufferings of so many others are so vividly before them. The proper class to flog is that of perpetrators of crimes of personal violence. That sort of crime is so easy, for the most part, so safe at the moment, and so gratifying to the passions of brutal men, that a sharp and dreaded penalty is particularly needed for its repression. Flogging might be used with advantage in some other cases if we cannot gain the point of longer sentences. We must have something effectual in the place of an infinity of short imprisonments which introduce a constant succession of novices to the interior of our prisons, allow no time for reform, and send out a crowd of disgraced persons into the world, more likely to break the laws than before they were punished.

While our "system" is conducted on Sir J. Jebb's idea that "due observance of routine duties will commonly effect all that can be done for convicts," we shall suffer as we are suffering now. There will be a constant accession to the number of the criminal class, without reform of the older members. It is in entire consistency with this leading idea of his that Sir J. Jebb prefers soldiers or men of the military stamp for prison officials, that the "routine" may be as strict and perfect as possible. We are warranted in distrusting this view of the case, not only by the bad success of "the system" thus far, but by the fact that in Ireland, where "routine" fills its proper place, and not the whole field of experiment, and where the prison officers are selected for intelligence and education, as well as moral qualities, the convicts work much harder for much less external inducement than any English convicts. They undergo more hardship, more toil, and a severer probation in every way than our gaol-birds; and the consequence is on the one hand the reform of four-fifths of the offenders, and on the other the perpetual reduction of the criminal class.

We are told that nobody has the courage to propose the expenditure which would be necessary to deal in the best way with our convicts. Let any good man of business in Parliament present the account of what we now pay for "dominant" crime, and what would be requisite for getting and keeping it under, and we shall see whether the people of England will not be willing to pay, and indeed be delighted to see how the cost will diminish from year to year. It would be a cheap bargain for the country to keep prisoners for longer sentences; to give them (especially the women) a fuller staff of guardians; to establish and maintain an effectual correspondence between the magistracy and police of the kingdom, and a registration and supervision of the criminal class generally, and discharged convicts in particular; and, finally, to have special prisons for the seclusion of incorrigible offenders. Such prisons at home would be much less costly than they could be in the colonies, even if the way were open which is in fact closed for ever. It is due to public security at home that the utterly hopeless class should be sequestered; and it is due to the new rising societies of the colonies that they should be spared all risk of any repetition of the evils which they have thrown off, and now perpetually refuse to be subjected to in any degree, and on any pretence whatever. About such perpetrating concentration there ought to be no people whatever in relation to the great majority of the worst class of all. We are too apt to disregard or forget the fact that a large proportion of our worst criminals are half idiots. Perhaps some of us have never heard how hopelessly weak-minded many of them are. Having scarcely any understanding and no power of will, they cannot reform. They are made up of animal passions, and it is a mere mockery and cruelty to all parties to sentence such beings to one imprisonment after another, and let them out to commit another crime on the first opportunity. If these wretches, and the

thoroughly depraved and hardened, who have proved themselves to be of an incorrigible quality, were secluded, at any cost, it would be a cheap bargain to even the existing generation, while the next would be grateful to us for having delivered them from the burden and curse of a "dominant" criminal class.

The measure adopted by the Government to allay the indignation and alarm caused by the increasing insecurity of the metropolis of Edinburgh, and of several other large towns, is the appointment of a Royal Commission to consider the subject. The names of the commissioners are no doubt, calculated to inspire respect. They comprise two ex-Lord Chancellors, three or four ex-Secretaries of State, and other persons of eminence. We are especially gratified to see the name of Lord Grey at the head of it, for no statesman has taken sounder views of the question. But we must be permitted to ask, what discoveries can this commission be expected to make? There is nothing in the power of this or any other commission, which the Secretary of State for the Home Department is not already empowered and bound to do. Commissioners are deservedly regarded with suspicion, when they are employed to divide and weaken the responsibility of a Minister. The administration of criminal justice—by which we mean the carrying into full and efficient execution penal sentences pronounced by courts of justice in the name of the law—is, in this country, by far the most important duty of the Home Secretary. In most other internal matters Great Britain governs herself; but for the restraint of criminals the strong hand of executive power is indispensable. We owe it to truth and to the public interest to say, that for several years past these most important duties have been ill discharged. We know not if it be due to the weakness or indifference of the heads of the department, or to the pendency of their official subordinates, but the result is deplorable. The effects of this laxity in encouraging the criminal population of England to attempt new kinds of crime, and to revive old offences long since out of date, are too apparent. The uncertainty which is allowed to attend almost every species of punishment has powerfully lessened its deterrent efficacy; and with regard to the highest penalty of the law, we do not hesitate to assert that it would be better to abolish capital punishment altogether, than to inflict it, or commute it, by the sole pleasure of the Secretary of State. The cases of Dr. Smethurst, Mrs. MacLellan, and some others of recent date, are an opprobrium to the justice of the country—their names are so notorious that the decision of the Home Office is in direct opposition to the strong opinion of the Judges who tried these criminals. It is supposed that these learned and exemplary Judges wrongfully condemned these miscreants to die? If not, we cannot but regard the interposition of the Secretary of State as an unwarrantable interference with the law; and we ask, who are to be executed, if these are reprieved? *Si nocens absoluitur, iudex damnatur.*

Of all the remedies to be applied to the present state of things, we take the most essential to be such a change in the criminal law as would give greater precision and certainty to punishment; and when the sentence of the law has been duly ascertained and passed, there are very few instances in which the executive authorities, but for the greater portion sympathetic with neither completely, but in a sense that every party should be making so much greater an expenditure of life and property than can be compensated for by any advantage they can derive of obtaining.

Those who are the least favourable to the Northerners are not so from any approbation of slavery, but from not understanding that the war is waged in the cause of abolition, and that the people who shall have maintained their independence for two or three years will be recognised by the principal European Powers. Such appeals to have been the procedure of the European Powers in all similar cases, as the revolt of the Anglo-American and Spanish-American colonies of the Haytiens and the Belgians. In these, and other like cases, the rule practically adopted seems to have been to regard the rebels as enemies, not as subjects, and to maintain their independence, and this without being unduly deterred by any pronounced decision of the justice of the cause.

Moreover, there are many who say that the negroes and people of colour are far from being kindly or justly treated in the Northern States. An emancipated slave, at any rate, has not received a good training for earning his bread by the wages of labour, and it is, in addition to this and his being treated as an outcast, he is excluded, as it is said, from many employments by the refusal of the white labourers to work with him, he will have gained little by taking refuge in the Northern States.

I have now laid before you the views which I conceive to be most prevalent among us, and for which I am not myself responsible. For the safe and efficient emancipation of slaves, I myself consider there is no plan so good as the gradual one, which was long ago suggested by Bishop Blinds. What he recommended was an *ad valorem* tax upon slaves, the value to be fixed by the owner, with an option to Government to purchase at that price. The slaves would be a burden to the master, and those the most so would be the most intelligent and steady, and, therefore, the best qualified for freedom; and it would be an interest to train his slaves to be free labourers, and to emancipate them, one by one, as steadily as he could with safety. I fear, however, that the time is gone by for trying this experiment in America.

With best wishes for the new year, I remain, dear Madam, yours faithfully,

"RD. WHATELY."

SHOOTING STARS.—Much attention has of late been drawn to the subject of shooting stars, and a committee of the British Association, with Mr. Glaisher for its chairman, is engaged in their investigation. It will, therefore, be pleasing to such of our readers as are interested in this subject to learn that the return taken on the 12th inst. of the great meteoric shower of the 13th November is predicted by Mr. Horlick, of Newhaven, Connecticut, U.S., one of the most intelligent observers of meteors, for the year or years 1866-67, and that already signs of its approach have been given by a very marked abundance of them, as observed by himself on the 18th of November last; and it deserves to be remarked, in corroboration of

Mr. Herrick's suggestion, which seems, as such, to have escaped his notice, that of 134 meteors seen by him and his coadjutors in two hours on that night, about two-thirds emanated from a point in the constellation Leo, which so far agrees with the recorded character of that most wonderful display. This will, of course, engage the attention of meteorologists on the corresponding date now approaching.—*Corwall Magazine.*

FUNERAL—The Friends of Mr. FREDERICK BAKER, who died on the 2nd inst., will attend the funeral of his deceased son, JAMES BAKER, at 3 o'clock, on Thursday, the 10th inst., at the residence of the deceased, the Barrington Hotel, George-street, South, at 3 o'clock. JOHN HILL, Jan., and Co., undertakers, King and Riley streets.

FUNERAL—The Friends of Mr. EDWARD BYRNE are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of his deceased son, JAMES BYRNE, at 3 o'clock, on Thursday, the 10th inst., at the residence of the deceased, the Barrington Hotel, George-street, South, at 3 o'clock. JOHN HILL, Jan., and Co., undertakers, King and Riley streets.

FUNERAL—The Friends of the late THOMAS DAVIES, are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, on Thursday, the 10th inst., at 3 o'clock, at the residence of the deceased, 199, Macquarie-street, North.

FUNERAL—The Friends of Mr. ALEXANDER FERRIER are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of his deceased son, ALEXANDER FERRIER, at 3 o'clock, on Thursday, the 10th inst., at the residence of the deceased, the Barrington Hotel, George-street, South, at 3 o'clock. JOHN HILL, Jan., and Co., undertakers, King and Riley streets.

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WANTED, a MAN, to drive a horse and dray. Apply at 407, Kent-street.

WANTED, a respectable YOUTH. Apply to A. FLETCHER, Druggist, 67, Macquarie-street.

WANTED, a BOY, apply to JAMES O'BRIEN, Baker, Adelaide-street, near the Theatre.

WANTED, a respectable Youth, as CARRIER, ANDERSON and EDMONDSON, 85, King-street.

WANTED, a BOY, 15, Lloyd's New-road, Drury, Apply Wellington Inn, Parramatta-st., half past 8.

WANTED, a General SERVANT. Robins Cottage, residence, the City Wine Vaults Hotel, George-street, THIS (Thursday) AFTERNOON, at a quarter before three o'clock, precisely. JOHN HILL, Jan., and Co., undertakers, King and Riley streets.

WANTED, a rough CARPENTER. Apply at 714, George-street, North.

WANTED, an Experienced COOK for a private family. Apply, No. 181, Macquarie-street.

WANTED, first-class WOMEN'S SHOEMAKERS, Apply JOHN LOBB, 230,